

Remarks

Applicant appreciates the Office Action's acknowledgement of the impropriety of the previous prior art rejections and the withdrawal of these rejections. The non-final Office Action dated December 12, 2008 lists the following newly presented rejections: claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Uppunda (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,262); claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the '262 reference in view of Wu (U.S. Patent No. 6,862,643); and claims 4-5 and 9-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112(2). In this discussion set forth below, Applicant does not acquiesce to any rejection or averment in this Office Action unless Applicant expressly indicates otherwise.

Applicant respectfully submits that the § 102(b) and § 103(a) rejections of claims 1-13 cannot be maintained because the cited portions of the '262 reference do not correspond to the claimed invention. The claimed invention, in certain embodiments, is directed to enabling a system programmer to configure a hardware subsystem using a single register write. *See, e.g.*, paragraphs 0003-0006. Applicant stores multiple sets of configuration data in a read-only memory of the hardware subsystem, thereby enabling the subsystem to be configured (or reconfigured) during operation by sending a single register write, to the subsystem, that identifies one of the sets of configuration data. *See, e.g.*, paragraphs 0014-0015. The set of configuration data identified by the single register write is then loaded into multiple registers of the subsystem to configure the subsystem, thereby encapsulating the multiple registers.

The cited teachings of the '262 reference, however, do not teach sending a single register write to ASIC 202 (*i.e.*, the asserted configuration/control unit) that identifies one of the sets of configuration data stored in EEPROM 204 (*i.e.*, the asserted storage portion) and, responsive thereto, storing the identified set of configuration data in registers 408, 410 and 412 to configure network interface card (NIC) 106. Instead, the '262 reference teaches that EEPROM 204 stores configuration data that is loaded into registers upon initialization in the manner that is specified by commands in the EEPROM 204. *See, e.g.*, Col. 2:3-33. In order to reconfigure the NIC 106, the '262 reference changes the configuration and command data on the EEPROM 204. *See, e.g.*, Col. 3:38-42. Thus, the '262 reference does not configure a subsystem by loading a set of

configuration data that is identified by a single register write as in the claimed invention; instead, the '262 reference simply configures the NIC 106 in the manner specified by the data in EEPROM 204 upon initialization. Moreover, the EEPROM 204 is not a read-only memory as is the memory of the claimed invention that stores that sets of configuration data. In addition, the cited teachings of the '262 reference do not allow for reconfiguration of the NIC 106 during operation, whereas Applicant's subsystem can be reconfigured during operation responsive to a single register write that identifies one of the stored sets of configuration data.

In view of the above, the cited portions of the '262 reference do not correspond to the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the § 102(b) and § 103(a) rejections of claims 1-13 be withdrawn.

Regarding the § 112(2) rejection of claims 4-5 and 9-13, Applicant notes that the term configuration/control ID is no longer present in the claims. As such, the § 112(2) rejection of claims 4-5 and 9-13 is moot and Applicant requests that it be withdrawn.

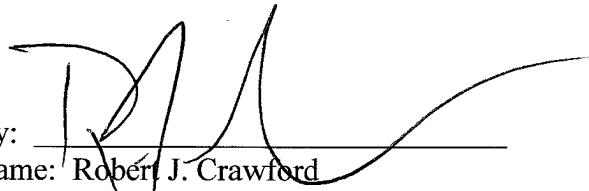
Applicant has added new claims 14-15, which are allowable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above. Applicant notes that support for claims 14-15 can be found throughout Applicant's disclosure including, for example, in Figure 1 and the related discussion in Applicant's specification.

In view of the remarks above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the agent overseeing the application file, Peter Zawilski, of NXP Corporation at (408) 474-9063 (or the undersigned).

Please direct all correspondence to:

Corporate Patent Counsel
NXP Intellectual Property & Standards
1109 McKay Drive; Mail Stop SJ41
San Jose, CA 95131

CUSTOMER NO. 65913

By: 
Name: Robert J. Crawford
Reg. No.: 32,122
651-686-6633
(NXPS.353PA)